

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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R 101000Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1205

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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EO 11652N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR

SUBJ: VICTORY DAY OBSERVANCES IN LENINGRAD

REF: LENINGRAD 661

1. SIZE OF THE AUDIENCE OBVIOUSLY HAS MUCH TO DO WITH THE NATURE OF REMARKS HERE. CONSUL GENERAL ATTENDED RECEPTION AFTERNOON OF MAY 9 HOSTED BY LENINGRAD MAYOR KAZAKOV AND OBLAST' PARTY FIRST SECRETARY ROMANOV WHICH WAS LIMITED TO SOME 150 HIGH PARTY AND LENINGRAD CITY/OBLAST' OFFICIALS. KAZAKOV SPOKE WARMLY IN HIS BRIEF REMARKS OF GRAND COALITION AGAINST FASCISM IN WW II AND SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, AND FRANCE, IN THAT ORDER, AS ALLIES IN WAR, NOTING THAT VICTORY WAS NOT ACHIEVED BY SOVIET UNION ALONE.

2. ROMANOV WAS IN FINE FETTER AND JOINED IN TOAST WITH CONSUL GENERAL "TO OUR MUTUAL VICTORY AGAINST A COMMON ENEMY." HEAD OF OBKOM'S FOREIGN RELATIONS SECTION, SUSLOV, LATER MADE POINT OF SEEKING OUT CONSUL GENERAL AND WARMLY ADVISING THAT ROMANOV WISHED TO RECEIVE CONSUL GENERAL'S FORMAL CALL ON HIM IN NEAR FUTURE. FYI.ROMANOV'S NAME HEADS GUEST LIST--VETTED WITH DIPLOMATIC AGENCY--OF
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SOVIET OFFICIALS INVITED TO CONSUL GENERAL'S RECEPTION

ON MAY 16 IN HONOR OF US SHIP VISIT.

3. DEPUTY CHIEF OF LENINGRAD DIPLOMATIC AGENCY CHERNOV WAS AT PAINS TO ASSURE CONSUL GENERAL, WHEN QUERIED, THAT ABSENCE OF REFERENCE TO WARTIME ALLIES AT MAY 8 EVENING EVENT SHOULD BY NO MEANS BE TAKEN AS NON-RECOGNITION OF FACT OF SLIGHT. CHERNOV EXPLAINED THAT PEOPLE OF LENINGRAD FELT VERY PERSONAL ABOUT THEIR WAR EXPERIENCE, TENDED TO REGARD VICTORY IN STRICTLY SOVIET TERMS; HENCE, ROMANOV'S MAY 8 REMARKS HAD BEEN COINED IN THAT VEIN. NEVERTHELESS, HE ADDED, THE EXTENT OF US CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEFEAT OF GERMANY WAS WELL KNOWN AND APPRECIATED.

4. COMMENT: THE TOP OF THIS SOCIETY'S HIGHLY-STRUCTURED POWER PYRAMID OBVIOUSLY PREFERS TO RESTRICT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HISTORY PRETTY MUCH TO ITSELF. WHEREAS THE GREATER GROUP OF "CHOSEN FEW" AT THE MAY 8 EVENING AFFAIR WAS TREATED TO A FILM CLIP OF STALIN, THE LATER TELEVISION RE-BROADCAST CONSIDERED THIS INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE WIDER LENINGRAD TV AUDIENCE. AND WHEREAS MAY 8 AUDITORIUM AUDIENCE WAS TOLD ONLY OF SOVIET ROLE IN WAR (PARA 3, REFTEL), THE CREME DE LA CREME GROUP AT THE MAY 9 RECEPTION WAS APPARENTLY CONSIDERED WORTHY OF HEARING THE BROADER VERSION OF HISTORY.
NEUBERT

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